

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace, without prejudice, all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-14 (canceled).

15. (Previously Presented) A method for transmitting messages between at least one main station and a terminal via a telecommunications network, comprising:

providing a matching device between the at least one main station and the terminal;

controlling a message exchange using the matching device, the message exchange being controlled in dependence upon at least one input from one of: i) the terminal, and ii) the at least one main station, wherein the entire message is transmitted in a transmission format that is determined in dependence upon a transmission format request made by one of the terminal and the at least one main station; and

matching, by the matching device, at least one characteristic for transmission of a message to the at least one input, wherein the at least one characteristic is at least one of a data type, a data format and a transmission mode.

Claims 16-17 (canceled).

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, further comprising:

converting, by the matching device, messages from the at least one main station into a standardized form readable by the terminal; and

transmitting the converted messages to the terminal.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, further comprising:

notifying the matching device of an incoming message for the terminal, by the at least one main station;

if the terminal can be reached, initiating a transmission process for the message to the terminal, according to one of a push transmission mode and a pull transmission mode; and

if the terminal can not be reached, storing the message until the matching device recognizes that the terminal can be reached.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, further comprising:
transmitting directly to the terminal, as a function of the input from the terminal, a message for the terminal present in the at least one main station by the matching device when the terminal can be reached; and
notifying the terminal of the availability of the message by the matching device, when the terminal can not be reached.
21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, further comprising:
transmitting a plurality of messages, from different ones of the at least one main station, in a combined form to the terminal by the matching device.
22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, further comprising:
segmenting, by the matching device as a function of input from the terminal, individual parts of a message which includes a plurality of elements; and
processing the message by the matching device.
23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, further comprising:
inputting by a user of the terminal the at least one input from the terminal in the form of a data record; and
transmitting the data record to the matching device.
24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, further comprising:
inputting by a user of the terminal a plurality of different data records for various functionalities that are implementable using the terminal; and
storing the plurality of different data records in a storage device assigned to the matching device.
25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein each of the plurality of different data records has an assigned identifying character.
26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, further comprising:
selecting, by the user, one of the plurality of different data records;
transmitting the assigned identifying character of the selected data record from the terminal to the matching device;
checking, in the matching device, whether a data record having the assigned identifying character is stored in the storage device; and

if the data record having the assigned identifying character is stored in the storage device, selecting, by the matching device, the data record.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, further comprising:

numbering the plurality of different data records in a sequence in which they are stored in the storage device, identifying characters of each of the plurality of data records being formed from the numbering.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, further comprising:

using protocols in the terminal and the matching device which include functional elements for a predefined transmission mode for the transmission of a message; and

effecting a suitable signaling of the message for the terminal.

29. (Currently Amended) A matching device for transmitting messages between at least one main station and terminal via a telecommunications network, comprising:

at least one interface to the at least one main station;

an interface to the terminal;

a storage device configured to store at least one input from one of the terminal and the at least one main station for controlling a message exchange between the at least one main station and the terminal;

a control unit configured to control the message exchange as a function of the at least one input, wherein the at least one input includes a transmission format request made by one of the terminal and the at least one main station; and

a matching device configured to match at least one characteristic for transmission of a message to the at least one input, wherein the at least one characteristic is at least one of a data type, a data format and a transmission mode.

30. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting messages between at least two main stations and a terminal via a telecommunications network, comprising:

providing a matching device between the at least two main stations and the terminal; and

controlling a message exchange using the matching device, the message exchange being controlled in dependence upon at least one input request from one of: ~~i) the terminal, and ii) the at least two main stations.~~

31. (Currently Amended) A matching device for transmitting messages between at least two main stations and a terminal via a telecommunications network, comprising:

at least one interface to at least one of the at least two main stations;

an interface to the terminal;

a storage device configured to store at least one ~~input~~ request from at least one of the ~~terminal~~ and the at least two main stations for controlling a message exchange between the at least two main stations and the terminal; and

a control unit configured to control the message exchange as a function of the at least one ~~input~~ request.

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the data format includes a text format.

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the data format includes a voice format.

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the data type includes a fax data.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the data format includes a graphics format.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the data format includes an e-mail format.

37. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting messages between different main stations and at least one terminal via a telecommunications network, the different main stations offering different services, the method comprising:

controlling an exchange of messages by a matching device between the different main stations and the terminal as a function of at least one ~~input~~ request of the terminal; and

matching by the matching device in the direction of transmission from the different main stations to the terminal the different services to a uniform service according to the at least one ~~input~~ request of the terminal.

38. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting messages between different main stations and at least one terminal via a telecommunications network, the different main stations offering different services, the method comprising:

controlling an exchange of messages by a matching device between the different main stations and the terminal as a function of at least one ~~input~~ request of the terminal; and
matching by the matching device in the direction of transmission from the different main stations to the terminal the different services to a uniform transmission mode according to the at least one ~~input~~ request of the terminal.

39. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting messages between at least one main station and at least one terminal via a telecommunications network, the method comprising:

controlling an exchange of messages by a matching device between the at least one main station and the terminal as a function of at least one ~~input~~ request of the at least one main station; and

matching by the matching device at least one property for the transmission of the message to the at least one ~~input~~ request of the at least one main station, wherein the at least one property for the transmission of the message includes at least one of a data type, a data format, and a transmission mode.

40. (Currently Amended) A telecommunications network, comprising:

a plurality of different main stations to offer different services;
a terminal; and

a matching device arranged between the different main stations and the terminal to control an exchange of messages between the main stations and the terminal as a function of at least one ~~input~~ request of the terminal, the matching device in a direction of transmission from the different main stations to the terminal matches the different services to a uniform service according to the at least one ~~input~~ request of the terminal.

41. (Currently Amended) A telecommunications network, comprising:

a plurality of different main stations to offer different services;
a terminal; and

a matching device arranged between the different main stations and the terminal to control an exchange of messages between the different main stations and the terminal as a function of at least one ~~input~~ request of the terminal, the matching device in the direction of

transmission from the different main stations to the terminal matches the different services to a uniform transmission mode according to the at least one ~~input~~ request of the terminal.

42. (Currently Amended) A telecommunications network, comprising:

- at least one main station;

- a terminal; and

- a matching device arranged between the at least one main station and the terminal to control an exchange of messages between the at least one main station and the terminal as a function of at least one ~~input~~ request of the at least one main station, the matching device matches at least one property for a transmission of the message to the at least one ~~input~~ request of the at least one main station, wherein the at least one property for the transmission of the message includes at least one of a data type, a data format, and a transmission mode.